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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to minority health care; creating s. 381.736, F.S.; requiring the Department of Health to develop a Florida Healthy People 2010 Program; providing program goals and guidelines; requiring a report to the Legislature; requiring the department to support certain programs, partnerships, and research; amending s. 409.901, F.S.; providing a definition; amending s. 409.912, F.S.; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to contract with a certain minority physician network for certain purposes; providing network requirements; providing guidelines for the operation of the network; requiring the agency to reimburse the network for certain fees; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 381.736, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

381.736 Florida Healthy People 2010 Program.--

(1) The Department of Health shall develop and implement, using existing resources, the Florida Healthy People 2010 Program, based upon the federal Healthy People 2010 Program, designed to improve the health of all Americans by advancing the following goals:

(a) Increase the quality and years of healthy life.

(b) Eliminate health disparities among different segments of the population.

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29 (2) The department shall report to the Legislature by
30 December 31 of each year regarding progress in meeting the
31 program's goals and shall report on the status of disparities in
32 health among minorities and nonminorities, using health
33 indicators that are consistent with those identified by the
34 federal Healthy People 2010 Program.

35 (3) To reduce negative health consequences that result
36 from ignoring racial and ethnic cultures, the department shall
37 support the development of programs to educate health care
38 professionals about the importance of culture in health status.
39 These programs shall include, but need not be limited to:

40 (a) The education of health care providers about the
41 prevalence of specific health conditions among certain minority
42 groups;

43 (b) The training of clinicians to be sensitive to cultural
44 diversity among patients and to recognize that inherent biases
45 can lead to disparate treatments;

46 (c) The creation of initiatives that educate private-
47 sector health care and managed care organizations about the
48 importance of cross-cultural training of health care
49 professionals and the effect of such training on the
50 professional-patient relationship; and

51 (d) The fostering of increased use of interpreter services
52 in health care settings.

53 (4) The department shall support the establishment of
54 public and private partnerships with charitable organizations,
55 hospitals, and minority physician networks to increase the
56 proportion of health care professionals from minority
57 backgrounds.

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58 (5) The department shall support and promote research on
 59 methods by which to reduce disparities in health care at
 60 colleges and universities that have historically large minority
 61 enrollments, including centers of excellence in this state
 62 identified by the National Center on Minority Health and Health
 63 Disparities, by working with community representatives to
 64 encourage local minority students to pursue professions in
 65 health care.

66 Section 2. Subsection (23) is added to section 409.901,
 67 Florida Statutes, to read:

68 409.901 Definitions; ss. 409.901-409.920.--As used in ss.
 69 409.901-409.920, except as otherwise specifically provided, the
 70 term:

71 (23) "Minority physician network" means a network of
 72 primary care physicians that is predominantly owned by
 73 minorities, as defined in s. 288.703, which has a collaborative
 74 partnership with a public college or university and a tax-exempt
 75 charitable corporation.

76 Section 3. Subsection (45) is added to section 409.912,
 77 Florida Statutes, to read:

78 409.912 Cost-effective purchasing of health care.--The
 79 agency shall purchase goods and services for Medicaid recipients
 80 in the most cost-effective manner consistent with the delivery
 81 of quality medical care. The agency shall maximize the use of
 82 prepaid per capita and prepaid aggregate fixed-sum basis
 83 services when appropriate and other alternative service delivery
 84 and reimbursement methodologies, including competitive bidding
 85 pursuant to s. 287.057, designed to facilitate the cost-
 86 effective purchase of a case-managed continuum of care. The

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87 agency shall also require providers to minimize the exposure of
88 recipients to the need for acute inpatient, custodial, and other
89 institutional care and the inappropriate or unnecessary use of
90 high-cost services. The agency may establish prior authorization
91 requirements for certain populations of Medicaid beneficiaries,
92 certain drug classes, or particular drugs to prevent fraud,
93 abuse, overuse, and possible dangerous drug interactions. The
94 Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee shall make
95 recommendations to the agency on drugs for which prior
96 authorization is required. The agency shall inform the
97 Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee of its decisions
98 regarding drugs subject to prior authorization.

99 (45) The agency shall contract with an established
100 minority physician network that provides services to
101 historically underserved minority patients. The network must
102 provide cost-effective Medicaid services, comply with the
103 requirements to be a MediPass provider, and provide its primary
104 care physicians with access to data and other management tools
105 necessary to assist them in ensuring the appropriate use of
106 services, including inpatient hospital services and
107 pharmaceuticals.

108 (a) The agency shall provide for the development and
109 expansion of minority physician networks in each service area to
110 provide services to Medicaid recipients who are eligible to
111 participate under federal law and rules.

112 (b) The agency shall reimburse the minority physician
113 network as a fee-for-service provider for Medicaid services and
114 shall also pay a case-management fee for primary care. Any

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115 savings shall be used to promote the Florida Healthy People 2010
116 Program in conjunction with the Department of Health.

117 (c) Medicaid recipients shall be assigned to a minority
118 physician network pursuant to the assignment ratios provided in
119 s. 409.9122.

120 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.